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ALFRED GOLDSBOROUGH MAYOR

In whose death biological science suffers a severe loss. Dr. Mayor was director of the department of marine biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington

to your skin that counts. If the air there has a temperature of 99 degrees and a humidity of 100 per cent., then you can not get cool either way. In that case you must drive away the layer of hot moist air and let some that is drier and cooler get at your skin, which you can do by means of a breeze, or, in default of that, a fan.

GASOLINE AND ALCOHOL

BEFORE prohibition the per capita consumption of gasoline and alcoholic beverages was about the same, twenty gallons a year. Now the consumption of alcoholic beverages is

theoretically reduced to zero while the consumption of gasoline has risen to seventy-seven gallons per capita.

But we may live to see these ratios reversed and gasoline decline while alcohol rises until vastly more alcohol is manufactured. For if alcohol comes into general use for fuel purposes vastly more must be manufactured than in the days when it was thought fit to drink. Now that the law will not allow us to drink liquor, we have alcohol to burn. And so soon as men get accustomed to regard alcohol as fuel instead of as food, the vexatious restrictions that

have been imposed upon its manufacture and sale for the last five hundred years may be removed. When that day comes the government will be urging people to set up home stills instead of confiscating them, and this will enable spoiled grain, unsalable fruit, sawdust and all sorts of wasted stuff to be converted into power on the spot.

For alcohol can be made out of more different things than almost anything else in the world, as those who have experimented with home brew have found out. Any sugary, starchy or woody material can be converted into alcohol, directly or indirectly, and there are millions of minute plants always hanging around ready to undertake the job of conversion for a bare living.

But if we have to shift from gasoline to alcohol we shall have to hunt for the cheapest and most abundant material to make it from, and it is high time that the hunting began. The saving of waste foodstuffs would not suffice. If we used corn it would take more than a quarter of our corn crop to make enough alcohol to take the place of the gasoline now used and we shall want to use more in the future as our desire for power increases.

Probably it will be found that the tropics will grow the largest crops of saccharine material suitable for alcoholic fermentation in a season and, if so, this neglected region will assume the importance that the coal field countries now possess. There will then be hot strife for hot territory, and the alcohol power will rule the world. Dr. Diesel, believing that his engine using heavy oils—mineral or vegetable—would take the place of the gasoline engines burning light fluids like gasoline or alcohol, foresaw the time when palm, peanut or some other tropical oil would be the motive power on which civilization would depend.

There are, of course, many other conceivable possibilities. We may distill cellulose directly instead of converting it into sugar and then fermenting it to alcohol. The chemist may get up some carbon chain or ring with all the hydrogen it can hold that will make a better fuel than anything found in nature, but he will have to have something to make it out of and that something will have to be grown. Unless we find some other source of power than combustion, we must eventually grow our fuel as we use it, for fossil fuel will not last forever. We must find a way of using the sunshine of to-day instead of that which fell upon the earth in the Carboniferous Era.

FROM COMPLEXES TO GLANDS

How swiftly the spotlight of popular interest shifts from one part of the stage to another! The eyes of distressed humanity turn eagerly toward any quarter that appears to promise health and happiness. A few years ago psycho-analysis was all the rage. Now endocrinology is coming into fashion. Those who recently were reading Freud and Jung have now taken up with Berman and Harrow. Those who formerly were rushing to have complexes extracted are now anxious to have glands implanted. Away with psychology! 'Rah for physiology! Anything hailing from Vienna is bound to boom.

As fads there is not much to choose between them. Popular expectations always run far ahead of the march of sober science which must make sure of every step as it goes. Both these have a certain foundation of fact, and promise much for the future though neither can fulfill the anticipations of the public at present. But the scientific basis of the glandular idea is much more solid and substantial. An emotional